



The
Commonwealth
Fund

2024/
2025

PREPARING TOMORROW'S LEADERS IN HEALTH

The Commonwealth
Fund Fellowship
in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University



ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP



Based at Harvard Medical School, the Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University is a one-year, full-time, academic degree-granting program designed to prepare physicians, particularly physicians from groups underrepresented in medicine, to become leaders who improve the health of historically marginalized populations. Fellows focus on transforming healthcare delivery systems and promoting innovation in policies, practices and programs that address health equity and the social determinants of health. Fellows will complete academic work leading to a Master of Public Health degree at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health or a Master of Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. The program incorporates the critical skills taught in schools of public health, government, business, and dental medicine with supervised practicum, shadowing, mentorship, leadership forums and seminar series conducted by Harvard senior faculty and nationally recognized leaders in healthcare delivery systems and public policy.

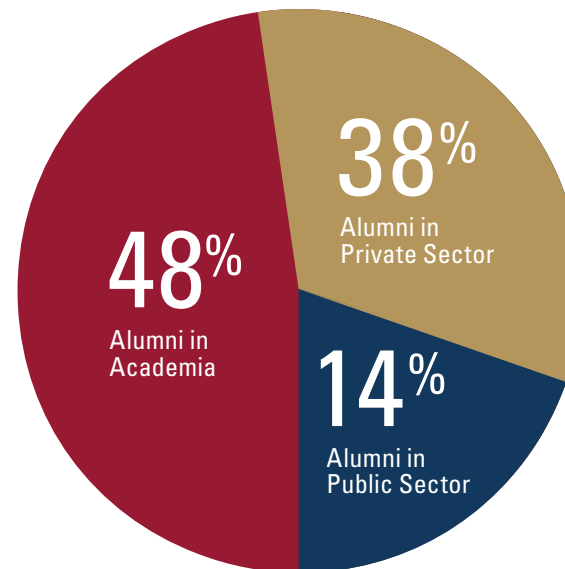
Up to five one-year, degree-granting fellowships will be awarded per year. Each fellowship provides: \$80,000 one-year stipend, full tuition, health insurance, books, fellowship travel and other program related expenses, including financial assistance for a practicum project.



28 YEARS OF FELLOWSHIP

1996-2023

The Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University welcomed its inaugural class in 1996. To date, 162 fellows have been trained, including those funded by the California Endowment Scholars Program and the Oral Health Fellowship Program (funded by The California Endowment, HRSA, the Dental Service of Massachusetts/Delta Dental Plan and Harvard School of Dental Medicine).



CLINICAL DISCIPLINES:

Internal Medicine
Pediatrics
Family Medicine
OB/GYN
Surgery
Psychiatry
Emergency Medicine
Cardiology

83% have made media appearances to discuss public health and minority health issues.

79% have published their research work in peer-reviewed journals. Between 1997 and 2022, approximately 2090 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and other forms of publication have appeared.

100% engaged in policy, research and/or service delivery related to minority health and vulnerable populations.

80% have held academic appointments at schools of public health and/or medicine.

Advisory Committee/Board & Recognitions



THE COMMONWEALTH FUND FELLOWS' EXPERIENCES AT HARVARD

Leadership & Policy Training



“The Commonwealth Fund Fellowship was a career altering experience. The one-year journey taught me how to be a critical thinker and how to ask the most pertinent questions. I learned about public health issues, leadership skills, and health disparities. I returned to clinical work as a public health practitioner with the goals of bringing about social change to improve women’s health.”

Nawal Nour, MD, MPH – 1999

Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Director, African Women’s Health Center, Brigham and Women’s Hospital; Kate Macy Ladd Professorship, Harvard Medical School



“The Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy was a life-changing experience for me. The fellowship provided the opportunity to gain training in both public health and minority health policy in a supportive and encouraging environment. Prior to the fellowship, I was aware that I wanted to do more to improve the quality of healthcare for American Indians and Alaska Natives but I was unsure of the most effective way to accomplish this in my career.”

Yvette Roubideaux, MD, MPH - 1997

Adjunct Professor, Department of Health Systems, Management and Policy at the Colorado School of Public Health

Networking



“I would not be where I am today without the Fellowship. The Fellowship prepared me to be a physician leader and policymaker. The fellows that I have gotten to know through the fellowship have been my most trusted friends and colleagues.”

Quyen Ngo-Metzger, MD, MPH – 1999

Professor, Department of Health Systems Science, Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine



“I came to Boston with my wife. No family. No familiarity with Boston. I knew what to expect from conversations with prior fellows, but was unsure how the fellowship would work out for me. However, in reflecting back on the year, I now have a large extended family in my cohort of fellows and in the Reede Scholars across the nation. I also now recognize how participating in this fellowship was undoubtedly the best way I could have spent this year.”

Darrell M. Gray, II, MD, MPH – 2014

President and CEO, Wellpoint Maryland

Mentorship



“This program has been transformative. It has helped me develop a framework, a knowledge base, and leadership tool. The mentorship has been extraordinary...The mentorship of our practicum experiences helped us think about future work in a better way. We learned to ask better questions. The program also helped crystallize a better vision for the future of our career.”

Jay Bhatt, DO, MPH, MPA – 2012

Managing Director, Deloitte and Executive Director of the Center for Health Solutions and Health Equity Institute; Primary Care Physician, Family Christian Health Center

Skill Development



“Every day I use analytical skills, negotiating skills, research skills or networking skills, to name a few, that were acquired or strengthened by my fellowship experience.”

Octavio N. Martinez, Jr., MD, MPH, MBA, FAPA – 2002

Senior Associate Vice President, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement; Executive Director, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health; Clinical Professor, Steve Hicks School of Social Work; Professor of Psychiatry, Dell Medical School, The University of Texas at Austin



“The Fellowship enables a person to utilize their skillset in a variety of different sectors. Because when we’re thinking about how complex the challenges are in minority health policy, it is not any one sector that is going to solve all of it. You need someone who has some understanding of all of them. And I think the Fellowship provides that.”

Kevin Simon, MD, MPH – 2023

Chief Behavioral Health Officer, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston, MA; Assistant in Psychiatry, Boston Children’s Hospital; Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School

Post-Fellowship Support



“The best thing about the Fellowship has been the people: my co-fellows, the alumni network, Dr. Joan Reede and her staff. It is a privilege to be part of a group of physicians whose common mission is to eliminate disparities, fight inequities and improve access and quality of care for our nation’s most vulnerable populations.”

Alice Hm Chen, MD, MPH – 2001

Chief Health Officer, Centene Corporation
Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco

Research & Advocacy



“The work I am currently doing is the most rewarding thing ever, because my research can impact health policies that have the potential to impact so many more people. And now I’ve been able to influence fellows and trainees to do health disparities research, which is also very rewarding. So really, without that training in the fellowship program, none of this would have happened. I feel indebted and forever grateful for it for changing the trajectory of my career.”

Keila Lopez, MD, MPH – 2008

Associate Professor, Pediatrics-Cardiology, Baylor College of Medicine; Pediatric Cardiologist, Texas Children’s Hospital



“The Fellowship was transformative because it made me realize what I could do in term of combining my clinical knowledge and research skills, while looking at the overall policy picture. And that led me to my current role, where I’m a health services researcher who is also focused on policy. I wouldn’t be here without the Fellowship, simply put. And even now, the opportunities, experiences, and alumni network—it really continues to play a big role in my life. It’s the best decision I’ve ever made for my career.”

Joshua Budhu, MD, MS, MPH - 2022

Attending Neuro-oncologist, Nicholls-Biondi Diversity Clinical Scientist
Faculty Scholar, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; Assistant Professor of Neurology, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY



FELLOWSHIP YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

In particular, fellows report that the fellowship's unique combination of coursework with site visits, leadership forums, and shadowing activities has proven to be an effective and unique way to bring together academic training with real world experience. The fellowship provides them "excellent opportunities" to network with national health leaders and exposes them to the most fundamental issues in health policy facing this country in the twenty-first century.



Seminar Series on Leadership in Minority Health Policy and Minority Health

The seminar sessions explore the public policy issues impacting the health status of minority and disadvantaged populations.



Leadership Forums and Special Sessions

Leadership Forums and Special Sessions are designed for fellows to interact with nationally recognized physician leaders from the public, private and academic sectors.

Examples of Fellows' Practicum Projects



Access to Quality Cancer Care: Creating an Agenda for Action

LaQuandra Nesbitt, MD, MPH – 2007

Bicentennial Endowed Professor of Medicine and Health Sciences, Senior Associate Dean, and Executive Director of the Center for Population Health Sciences and Health Equity, The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Washington, DC



Conceptualizing Health Equity Framework in Precision Medicine Innovation Research and Development

Adrian Jacques Ambrose, MD, MPH - 2020

Medical Director, Columbia University Irving Medical Center; Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Columbia University, New York, NY



Transitions of Care in an Accountable Care Model for Dually Eligible Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees

Chloe Slocum, MD, MPH – 2017

Director of Health Policy, Associate Director of Quality, Spaulding Rehabilitation Network, Cambridge, MA; Assistant Professor in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA



Maximizing Behavioral Health Resources for a Large Health System

Phillip Murray, MD, MPH – 2017

Director of Emergency Psychiatry, UC Davis Health, Sacramento, CA



Addressing the Role of FQHCs in Caring for Victims of Human Trafficking: Recommendations for Moving Forward

Kimberly S.G. Chang, MD, MPH – 2015

Family Physician and Director of Human Trafficking and Healthcare Policy, Asian Health Services (AHS), Oakland, California; Commissioner, President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, & Pacific Islanders; Vice Speaker of the House, Executive Board, National Association of Community Health Centers; Co-founder, HEAL Trafficking



What do Black Women Want from Healthcare? - The "BELIEVE US" Report

Magdala Chery, MBS, DO, MPH – 2021

Health Equity Clinical Specialist, Google



ANNUAL MEETING, REUNION OF ALUMNI, AND CURRENT FELLOWS

The annual meeting is held in the spring of each year for current and alumni fellows. The former fellows are expected to assess the relevance of the Fellowship program in terms of their professional experiences of the post-fellowship years, and the current fellows present their practicum projects at the meeting. This annual gathering also provides the opportunity for both current and former fellows to share professional and academic experiences. An alumni annual symposium is held in conjunction with the annual meeting.



Site Visits

The site visits enable fellows to obtain the first-hand experiences of problem-solving and policy-making processes in public health management and afford them an opportunity to network directly with key administrators from federal, state, local agencies and organizations (e.g. NIH, HRSA, FDA, OMH, CMS, PCORI in Washington, DC; Boston Public Health Commission, Massachusetts Department of Public Health).



Shadowing

The shadowing experience provides fellows a unique opportunity to interact more directly with nationally recognized public health and policy leaders and exposes fellows to the central issues and challenges encountered by public health leaders.



Career Development

Examples of topics covered under career-development include: Self-awareness; Cultivating a network and mentoring; Increasing visibility; Expanding career options; Documenting.

HOW TO APPLY



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Deadlines

Application Due: December 1, 2023

Notification of 2024 - 2025 fellows: March 1, 2024

All inquiries and requests for application materials to both the Fellowship and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health/ Harvard Kennedy School should be addressed to:

Joan Y. Reede, MD, MPH, MS, MBA

Director, The Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy
at Harvard University, Minority Faculty
Development Program Harvard Medical School
164 Longwood Avenue, 2nd floor
Boston, MA 02115-5818

Tel: 617-432-2922

Fax: 617-432-3834

E-mail: mfdp_cff@hms.harvard.edu

For more information, please visit:

<https://cff.hms.harvard.edu/how-apply>

Application materials and instructions are available electronically.

Eligibility

- Physicians who have completed residency and who are either BE/BC. Additional experience beyond residency, such as chief residency, is preferred.
- Experience or interest in advancing systems change to improve the health of all populations as well as the health of historically marginalized populations in particular.
- Strong evidence of leadership experience or potential, especially as related to community efforts, quality improvement, transformation of health care delivery systems, and/or health policy.
- Intention to pursue a career in policy, public service, and/or academia.
- U.S. citizenship or U.S. permanent residency.

Review Criteria & Selection

Applications will be reviewed for:

- Academic and training qualifications
- Commitment to a multicultural perspective in program planning, program implementation, and policy analysis
- Experience in projects devoted to increasing quality care and access and improving the capacity of the health care system to address health needs of historically marginalized populations
- Evidence of leadership potential

The Fellowship Advisory Committee, comprised of distinguished faculty, health leaders, administrators, and the program director, will review applications, interview candidates, and select the fellows.

Applicants must complete applications to **both** the Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University and the Master of Public Health Program of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, **including application for financial aid at the Chan School.**

For those **applicants who already have an MPH degree**, applications to **both** the Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University and the Master of Public Administration Program of the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) are required, **including application for financial aid at HKS.**

Acceptance to both graduate school and the Fellowship is necessary for program participation. Applicants not accepted to the Fellowship will still be eligible for admission to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health or the Harvard Kennedy School.

FELLOWS 2023-2024

Commonwealth Fund Fellowship in Minority Health Policy at Harvard University



NanaEfua Afoh-Manin, MD, MPH

NanaEfua Afoh-Manin, MD, MPH is the Founder, and Chief Medical & Innovation Officer at Shared Harvest Foundation in Los Angeles, CA. Shared Harvest Foundation's mission is to spread compassion through wellness, service and relief. In her clinical role, Dr. Afoh-Manin, affectionately known as, "Dr. Nana," served as a clinical instructor and emergency medicine physician. A thought leader who is passionate about mental and financial wellness, she is also the executive producer for docufilm series, VERCIS Film Project, a series that captures the voices, experiences and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the mental health for providers, as well as, burnout and suicide amongst physician of color. The docuseries first installment, I Am Not Your Hero, follows Dr. Briana Young and forces viewers to take a hard look at the challenges she faces juggling motherhood, emergency medicine and suicide. As a social entrepreneur and change maker, Dr. Afoh-Manin seeks to increase access to quality culturally competent care while closing the intergenerational and racial wealth gap caused by student loan debt for female-gendered, Black, Indigenous and other professionals of color. With a focus on health equity, Dr. Afoh-Manin is committed to measuring the impact of the minority clinical pipeline program, as well as medical workforce wellness and retention models.

As a healthcare technology expert and enthusiast, Dr. Afoh-Manin is also a recipient of the Google For Startup Black Founders Fund for her innovative fintech platform. She believes strengthening the workforce and alleviating debt is a fundamental component of achieving health equity. She received a Service Award from National Medical Association in 2022 as well as President's Service Award from the Association of Black Psychologists in 2021. She serves on the Health Equity Committee of the Los Angeles Department of Public Health. She also sits on the Internet Action Team of No Going Back LA to inform policy on digital health equity. Her foundation and work endeavors have been the recipient of grant funding from HRSA, California Department of Public Health, Direct Relief, California Wellness, and the Weingart Foundation Fund for Health Equity & Emergency Response. Dr. Afoh-Manin received a MPH in Global Public Health from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health in 2013. She completed a residency in emergency medicine at the University of Chicago Medical Center in 2011, as well as her medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 2008. You can learn more about Dr. Afoh-Manin at drnanamd.com.



Nnenna Ezech, MD

Nnenna Ezech, MD is a dual resident physician in the Harvard Combined Dermatology Residency and the Brigham and Women's Hospital Internal Medicine Residency. Her clinical and research interests include complex medical dermatology, rheumatology-dermatology, and improving access to dermatologic services in underserved communities. Dr. Ezech has considered how the intersections of policy, social inequities and discriminatory narratives impact the health of marginalized populations. She previously served as a policy fellow in the California State Department of Social Services through the Capital Fellows Program. While in medical school, Dr. Ezech was selected by fellow students and faculty to sit on the inaugural Health Equity Task Force. Additionally, she completed a longitudinal project focusing on building sustainable funding for community health workers in Milwaukee, WI. She aspires to utilize innovative care models to improve inequities in the diagnosis and management of dermatologic conditions. Dr. Ezech received her medical degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2020 with distinctions in public health and research.



Haeyeon Hong, MD, MS

Haeyeon Hong, MD, MS, completed her residency in Emergency Medicine at Boston Medical Center in 2023. She currently serves as the Local Health Equity Fellow at Boston Medical Center and as a Commonwealth Fund Fellow. Throughout her medical school and residency, she has led several evolving projects focused on the Social Drivers of Health (SDOH) Screening and Referral processes in the Emergency Department at Boston Medical Center. Driven by her deep-rooted commitment to health policy and health equity, Dr. Hong aspires to become a leading advocate for universal SDOH screening and referral in emergency departments and to spearhead innovative approaches in leveraging social factor-related data to transform healthcare for the underserved. Dr. Hong received her medical degree from the Boston University School of Medicine in 2019.



Jessica Pierre Francois, MD

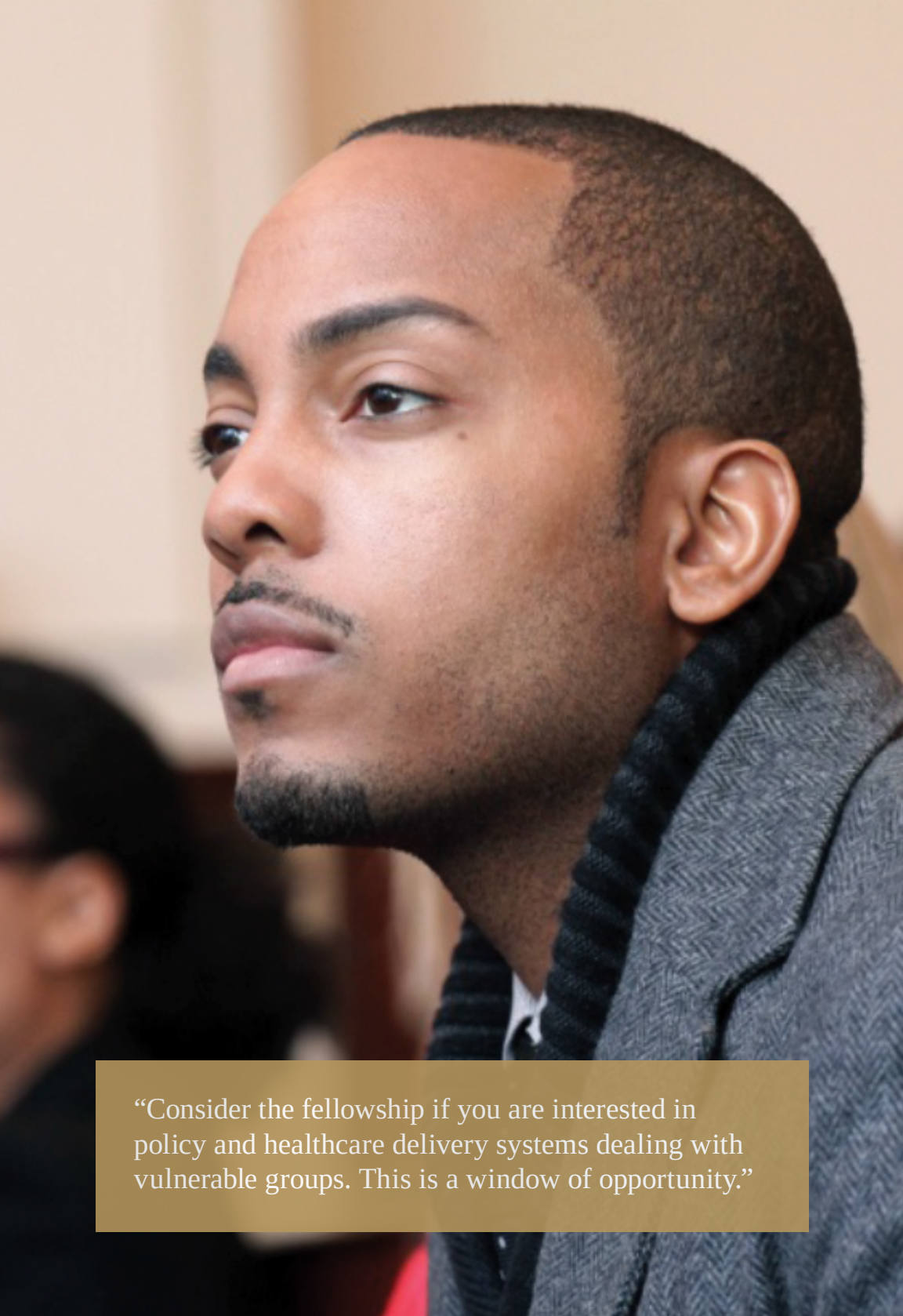
Jessica Pierre Francois, MD was most recently a Pediatric Resident in the Massachusetts General for Children Pediatric Residency Program in Boston, MA. Throughout her time there, she has been involved in leadership initiatives such as the Health Equity and Program Evaluation committees, which focus on antiracism, diversity, and inclusion efforts in the residency program. Dr. Pierre Francois has a well-developed passion and interest in community health; she understands the impact of community-wide initiatives in addressing health disparities. As an elected member of Gold Humanism Honor Society, Dr. Pierre Francois has been involved in initiatives like The Barbershop Health Network: “Doc n’ the Shop,” an initiative aimed at addressing health disparities in vulnerable populations in Worcester, MA through community-based outreach and health education at local barbershops and community centers. Dr. Pierre Francois aspires to be part of leadership that continues to foster the growth, innovation, and sustainability of community health center work throughout Massachusetts. She will be an inaugural fellow in the Boston Children’s Fenwick Institute Fellowship in Pediatric Health Equity and Policy through a collaboration with the Commonwealth Fund Fellowship. Dr. Pierre Francois earned her medical degree from UMass Chan Medical School in 2020.



Jodian Pinkney, MD

Jodian Pinkney, MD is currently an Attending Infectious Diseases Physician at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA. Dr. Pinkney aspires to be an expert in the field of infectious-disease-related preventive healthcare for reproductive-aged Black women domestically and in the Caribbean. During her time as a clinical research fellow, she received federal funding for work focused on vaccine confidence and medical mistrust among pregnant Jamaican women. Her previous experience includes serving as the Clinical Coordinator for the Center for HIV/AIDS Research and Education Services (CHARES) in Jamaica, one of twelve centralized sites for HIV care funded by the government through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). She received her medical degree from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, prior to completing her Internal Medicine residency at the University of South Carolina, serving as Chief Resident in 2020. She completed her fellowship in Infectious Diseases at the Massachusetts General Hospital/ Brigham and Women’s Hospital combined program in 2022.





“Consider the fellowship if you are interested in policy and healthcare delivery systems dealing with vulnerable groups. This is a window of opportunity.”

FELLOWSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Myron Allukian, DDS, MPH

Corresponding Member, Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, Harvard School of Dental Medicine; Vice President American Fluoridation Institute; Former Dental Director, Boston Public Health Commission

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH

Former Massachusetts Commissioner of Public Health; Senior Public Health Advisor, Advanced Clinical

Judy Bigby, MD

Former Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Sara Bleich, PhD

Vice Provost for Special Projects at Harvard University; Professor of Public Health Policy, Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Carol K. Pforzheimer Professor at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

O'Neil A. Britton, MD

Senior Vice President Operations, Associate Chief Operations Officer, Mass General Brigham; Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Alice Hm Chen, MD, MPH

Chief Health Officer, Centene Corporation
Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco

Kevin Churchwell, MD

President and CEO, Boston Children's Hospital; Robert and Dana Smith Associate Professor of Anesthesia, Harvard Medical School

Chester Douglass, DMD, PhD, MPH

Professor Emeritus, Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, Harvard School of Dental Medicine

William V. Giannobile, DMSc, DDS

Dean, Professor of Oral Medicine, Infection, and Immunity, Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Donald A. Goldmann, MD

Chief Scientific Officer, Emeritus, and Senior Fellow, Institute for Healthcare Improvement; Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School; Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Joseph P. Gone, PhD

Professor of Anthropology, Harvard University; Professor of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Faculty Director, Harvard University Native American Program

Dora Hughes, MD, MPH

Acting Director, Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ); Acting CMO for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Lisa I. Iezzoni, MD, MSc

Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Health Policy Research Center, Mongan Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital

Ichiro Kawachi, PhD

John L. Loeb and Frances Lehman Loeb Professor of Social Epidemiology, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Thomas H. Lee, MD, MSc

Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Chief Medical Officer, Press Ganey

Nicole Lurie, MD, MSPH

Director, CEPI-US (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations); Former Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response; Senior Lecturer, Harvard Medical School

Barbara McNeil, MD, PhD

Ridley Watts Professor and Chair, Department of Health Care Policy; Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School; Professor of Radiology and Practicing Radiologist, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Joshua Metlay, MD, PhD

Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine; Peter L. Gross, MD, Chair in Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital; Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School

Joseph Newhouse, PhD

John D. MacArthur Professor of Health Policy and Management, Harvard University

Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD

Dean and Professor of Medicine, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

Valerie L. Ward, MD, MPH

Senior Vice President, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer; Director, Sandra L. Fenwick Institute for Pediatric Health Equity and Inclusion; Director, Office of Health Equity and Inclusion, Boston Children's Hospital; Assistant Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School

David Williams, PhD

Florence & Laura Norman Professor of Public Health; Chair, Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health; Professor of African and African American Studies and of Sociology, Harvard University

Jonathan Woodson, MD

President, Uniformed Services University





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Harvard Medical School
164 Longwood Avenue, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02115-5818

Phone: 617-432-2922

Fax: 617-432-3834

E-mail: mfdp_cff@hms.harvard.edu

Web: <https://cff.hms.harvard.edu>



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